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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Baltic Fleet Developments: Training Vessels/Completed Security Purge/Fleet Status

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1. "The following information on the Baltic Fleet dates through late September 1953.

Training Vessels

2. "The gunboat 'Krasnoie Znamia' based at the naval port of Tallinn is at present a training ship for the 'study detachment of petty officers of the Baltic Fleet' (Uchebny Otriad Starshin KBF). Future petty officers and 'sergeants' of the Baltic Fleet get their gunfire training on this ship. The course is called 'Kurs BCh-II' (Kurs 'Oevoi Chasti No 2 - battle unit course No 2).
3. "The training ship 'BUG' based at the naval port of Paldiski serves as a target and control ship for the 'submarine training unit of the Baltic Fleet' (Uchebny Otriad Podlodok KBF).

Completed Security Purge

4. "On 1 Jul 53 the check-over and purge of the officers and 'sergeants' of the Baltic Fleet was completed. The officers and 'sergeants' of the Baltic Fleet are now 100% CP members, candidates for CP membership or members (or candidates for membership) of the Komsomol organization. No person who has not joined either of the above organizations may henceforth serve in the Baltic Fleet.
5. "The non-Party officers and 'sergeants' who were weeded out during the purge have been transferred partly to naval vessels in the Caspian and partly to civilian shipping. Those considered least reliable are now employed on river craft on the Volga and on Siberian rivers.

Fleet Status

6. "In 1952 the best fleet in the Soviet Navy as regards navigation was the Black Sea Fleet. The best naval vessels as regards both navigation and gunfire practice were the battleship 'Sevastopol' and the heavy cruiser 'Molotov' of the

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Black Sea Fleet. These vessels have been set up as an example of good training. The Baltic Fleet got third place. The Arctic Fleet was second."

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